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associated with them, and especially to the untiring activity of the author of this check-list.

In his "Zoölogy for Students and general Readers," by A. S. Packard, Jr., the nervous system and pedal ganglia and otocysts of *Mya arenaria* are figured from drawings prepared by Dr. W. K. Brooks. Prof. Packard also gives a general account of the anatomy of *Lunatia heros*, and of *Loligo pealii*.

A new form of *Helix* from California, apparently related to *H. mormonum*, is described by Mr. R. E. C. Stearns in the Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences, 1, No. 10, Nov., 1879, article xxvi, with a figure, under the name of *H. var. circumcarinata* Stearns.

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RECENT LITERATURE.

SMITH'S BRAZIL; THE AMAZONS AND THE COAST.¹—Of the many delightful books which have been written on Brazil, this is, to our taste, the most interesting. Its author was, for a time, a member of the Geological Survey of Brazil under Prof. Hartt, and brings to the task of writing a popular book, many qualifications. His work displays scientific knowledge, acute powers of observation, an insight into the social and business interests of the inhabitants, and an enthusiastic love of nature. His style is vivacious, and we are carried with ready facility from forests to fevers, from plains to insects, from politics to navigation, while a narrative of travel appears here and there as we pass from one scene to another. The variety of subjects treated will interest a large circle of readers. As Mr. Smith is an accomplished entomologist, his contributions to this department have an especial value. The statements of the results of a day's collecting of beetles are remarkable. On December 17th he took 394 specimens of 275 species in about eight hours. On January 29th, 471 specimens of 268 species. The famine of Ceara, 1877-78, of which Mr. Smith was an eye-witness, is graphically described. The industrial statistics will interest American merchant especially. The execution of the work, including the numerous wood engravings, is admirable.

NATURAL SCIENCE AND RELIGION.²—In these lectures Dr. Gray furnishes the theological students of Yale with his reasons for maintaining a belief in the evolution of animal and vegetable spe-

¹ *Brazil; The Amazons and the Coast.* By Herbert H. Smith. Illustrated by sketches by Champney, etc. New York, Chas. Scribner's Sons, 1879. 8vo, pp. 644.

² Two lectures delivered to the Theological School of Yale College. Chas. Scribner's Sons. 8vo, 1880.